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OLC 68-0162

28 March 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Briefing of Dr. James Lucier, Research Assistant to
Senator Strom Thurmond

1. On this date, [redacted]
of OCI, met with Dr. James Lucier to brief him on the situation in

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2. This briefing was arranged as a result of contacts with
the Agency by Dr. Lucier who, ostensibly on the behalf of Senator
Thurmond, expressed an interest in interviewing [redacted]
In response to Dr. Lucier's initial contact, we had informed him
that any interruption in the orderly debriefing process with respect
[redacted] would be undesirable at this time. We suggested, as an
alternative, an Agency meeting with the Senator to brief him on the
case. Lucier subsequently asked, in view of the Senator's busy
schedule, that we brief him (Lucier) and he, in turn, would pass the
information to Senator Thurmond.

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3. Since we had been unable to locate any record of a security
clearance for Dr. Lucier, I asked him if he had ever received a
security clearance. Dr. Lucier said he had not. He said it had been
one of those things he had intended to do but had kept putting off
because of the time taken in completing the forms. I told Lucier
that the information we were about to give him was classified and
indicated that it would be highly desirable from the Agency view-
point, and in his best interest, if he were to proceed to obtain a
clearance. I told him that CIA did not clear congressional staff
members, but if he wished, we would be happy to obtain the appro-
priate Department of Defense clearance forms for him and process
them to DOD. I emphasized that we were providing him with this
information strictly for the information of Senator Thurmond, adding
that we had not briefed anyone else on the Hill to date on this case.

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(I had previously informed Dr. Lucier that at an appropriate time, when all of our debriefing processes had been completed, the Director undoubtedly would be in touch with Senator Russell, as Chairman of our CIA Subcommittee, to determine the Senator's wishes regarding the dissemination of information on this case to Subcommittee members.) In this connection [redacted] pointed out that [redacted] would probably take about three months to complete.

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6. Our meeting lasted almost two hours. It was cordial and appeared to fully satisfy Dr. Lucier's needs. There are no follow up items. It was obvious [redacted] was completely familiar with

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[redacted] and the various developments which have taken place up to the present. He was completely forthright and answered all questions put to him by Lucier. I propose to follow up on the security clearance issue by handcarrying a set of DOD security forms to Dr. Lucier within the next few days.

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[redacted]
Assistant Legislative Counsel

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